

JORDAN TIMES

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Dept. of Arts to spread cultural awareness among Jordanian children

By Breda Finegan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 27—If children in Jordan don't learn the difference between watercolour and oil paintings or the sound of a violin and a flute and if they don't get to see a play or read a new book this year, it won't be for want of trying on the part of the Department of Culture and Arts.

This, as we are all very well aware, is International Year of the Child. The department has added its name to the long list of organisations which are busily preparing special events designed "to spread an awareness of culture and to stimulate children's minds," as Mr. Mohanna Durra, Director of the Department of Culture and Arts, put it to the Jordan Times in an interview today.

Such events will include the usual art exhibitions as well as the writing and production of children's plays, publishing children's books, composing special songs, and improving upon and opening new libraries in youth centres all over Jordan.

All these plans were drawn up at a recent meeting between the department and the Youth Organisation and will be put into effect as soon as they have been given the official approval by the minister of culture and youth.

On the long term, the department is thinking of creating a children's theatre "as soon as we get the personnel," Mr. Durra said. "It is quite difficult to find the right people for such projects." And the department is planning to start a section for children's stories to add to its already impressive library of cassettes which contains almost 1,000

recordings of Jordanian songs and folklore gathered from people all over the country.

In about a month's time, two exhibitions will be opening in Amman for the occasion of International Year of the Child. The department has already let Jordanian artists know that it is looking for paintings on this theme to be included in the exhibition. Mr. Durra estimates that after selection, which he predicted would be difficult there should be about 100 works for the exhibition.

But it's not just going to be an adult free-for-all, the children are going to have their say too in a big way. They will be contributing some 150 works of art to the exhibition. "They (the children) must be allowed to show the feelings they have, they must express what they want," the director emphasised.

Each exhibition, then, will really be two in one, including works by adults and children. Because it will be far too big to be contained in the Art Gallery of the Ministry of Culture, it will be split in two, one half being shown in the foyer of the Palace of Culture.

After ten days on show in Amman, select pieces will be taken on tour to be shown at each of the 20 youth centres throughout Jordan for a period of ten to 15 days at each centre. Those whose works are chosen for the exhibition will receive some kind of recognition or award although what form this will take has not yet been decided. In addition, the best entries exhibited "the most expressive paintings" will be used to grace postcards and prints made by the department.

Short story writers have been asked to put pen to paper specially for children this year as well. If they are successful in writing stories that can be appreciated by children, and that are inspired by the Jordanian or Arab environment, "although we won't be chauvinistic about this," they will have the honour of having their books published by the department.

Prince Mohammad returns from UK

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA)—His Highness Prince Mohammad returned today from a private visit to the United Kingdom.

Letter to the Editor No 'padding' in UNWRA budget

Sir,

I was pleased to have the opportunity of discussing with your reporter Mr. Ron Cathell, the Agency's budget for 1979. I appreciate the space which you devoted (Feb. 27 issue, page 2) to the problems arising from the fact that the Agency has to rely upon voluntary contributions, which, although increasing each year, do not increase in line with the increases in the Agency's costs. However, I must make it clear that in no way does the Agency "pad" its budget. All items in the budget are considered necessary and there is consequently no question of trimming "fat" from the Agency's budget as your headline indicated. It is well known that the Agency's budget is restricted to essential items and has been for many years.

Furthermore, no order of priority was given for the items not covered at present by the funds which the Agency expects, at this juncture, to receive in 1979, except that the first priority was stated to be the continuation of the Agency's preparatory cycle of education. The remainder of the list was illustrative of the type of item not now covered by the anticipated contributions. The Agency is actually seeking funds, in cooperation with the host governments, to cover all items in its 1979 budget.

The article contained a number of other inaccuracies, which is perhaps understandable in view of the complexities inherent in this subject. I anticipate that, at a later date, an official statement will be issued on the Agency's 1979 budget.

Yours faithfully,

John W. Tanner
Director of UNWRA Affairs,
Jordan

Amman
Feb. 27, 1979

VILLA FOR RENT

In a very quiet area consists of three bedrooms, three baths, two verandas, garage and one bedroom; basement if required. Telephone available and plenty of water supplies.

Location: Jordan University Residence Area.
For more information call 65595 house: from 2 a.m. until 7 p.m. and 42021 office: from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consisting of three large bedrooms, dining room, sitting room with wall closets, large kitchen, and two verandas with central heating.

Location: Shmeisani, near La Terrace Restaurant.

Please contact tel. 37260.

FLAT FOR RENT

A deluxe flat consisting of three bedrooms, living room, dining room, with central heating and telephone.

Location: Jabal Amman, Second Circle, near Mount Hotel.

Please contact tel. 41048.

ECONOSCOPE

Lord Mayor: Yes, Arabic names are beautiful

By Jawad Ahmad

ADVERTISING IN JORDAN is an art that could stand a good deal of improvement from classified ads in newspapers to silly ads selling mattresses on television. There is a debate going on these days on the names given to shops, restaurants, clubs and clothing stores.

The Lord Mayor of Amman issued a statement asking all shop owners to change the names of their shops from foreign to Arabic names. It is thought that shopkeepers are overdoing it in this respect. To them, choosing a sexy foreign name serves as an attraction to customers. To the Lord Mayor, this is a manifestation of a feeling of inferiority towards everything that is foreign. A foreign name for a shop could indicate the quality and class of the merchandise inside—at least this is thought to be the case.

I really do not know why anybody should take a firm position on this matter, but I do. I stand with the Lord Mayor, and I believe that in our literature and history there are many names which could indicate both class and quality. Not only that, but I believe that some of the fanciest places in the West carry Arabic names.

To cite examples, take the names of the famous Sahara hotel in Las Vegas, the Morocco restaurant in New York, the Cedars of Lebanon

Hospital in Hollywood. The names Omar, Yam, Eldorado, Simbad, Aladdin, etc., are further examples.

It is extremely funny when you find a sandwich corner in Amman that sells "hot 'hommes' called, for example, 'The Cafeteria'." Does this name serve as an indication of quality by necessity? The current trend is when you enter Arabic words. An example of that is, for instance, 'Panorama Baqqalat' or 'Panorama green'.

Bless those days when a small cart pushed to write so many things on his cart, ranging verses of the Koran as charms against the evil eye—all in Arabic. Many thought at the time this was too much. This may be true, but more ridiculous than some of the foreign names given to what are assumed to be modern.

What is wrong with calling a five-star 'Farabi', who was a famous poet, a gourmet, philosopher and the man who modern table etiquette and manners were thousand years ago. Many other examples be extracted from our history—if we only pride to do so.

The word 'magasin', which means French, is a word that was originally Arabic. You do not believe it, consult the dictionary. Arabic names are beautiful and classy.

King, Queen visit Air Force bases

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA)—Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor today visited a number of Air Force bases.

King Hussein, who is Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, commended the staff of the bases on the high standards of training and technical proficiency.

Their Majesties were accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Abdul Hamid Sharaf, the minister of court, the chief chamberlain, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Shari' Zaid Ibn Shaker, the commander of the Air Force, senior officials and their wives.

WHAT'S GOING ON

English Film

The British Council presents Blake Edwards' "The Return of the Pink Panther" starring Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau. The film starts at 8:30 p.m., and tickets reserving free entry are available at the reception desk.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a film based on a novel by Theodor Fontane entitled "Effi Briest". The film is directed by R.W. Fassbinder. Starting time is 8:00 p.m., and subtitles are in Arabic.

Russian Film

The Soviet Cultural Centre presents a film in Russian entitled "The Red Fruit Tree" at 6:00 p.m.

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will be partly cloudy and temperatures around normal. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Akaba Gulf winds will be northerly moderate and seas will be calm.

Temperatures	Overnight		Daytime	
	minimum	maximum	minimum	maximum
Amman	5	14	12	22
Aqaba	12	22	12	22
Jordan Valley	12	22	12	22
Deserts	6	18		

ANNOUNCES The opening of its new offices in the Jordan National Bank Building. Jabal Amman, Third Circle, near the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. Tel. 43258, P.O. Box. 925394.

The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan The Jordan Valley Authority

Arda Grading, Packing and Marketing Centre
Miscellaneous Equipments and Materials
Addendum No. 1

Notice of Change in Delivery Dates.

The Jordan Valley Authority has revised the delivery Schedule for Miscellaneous Equipment and Materials as follows:

All Groups: September 15 1979

Omar Abdallah Daghkan
(President)
J.V.A.

The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan The Jordan Valley Authority

Arda Grading, Packing and Marketing Centre
Grading and Packing Equipment
Addendum No. 1

Notice of Change in Delivery Dates.

The Jordan Valley Authority has revised the delivery of Grading and Packing Equipment

Group 1: September 15 1979
Group 2: September 30 1979
Group 3: October 15 1979

Omar Abdallah

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I Tuesday says delegations from North and South Yemen, Lebanon and the Sahara Polisario Front are now touring the Arab world "carrying on their backs several chronic diseases for which the Arab League failed to treat or find appropriate solutions."

Reviewing the events that beset the Arab countries in these areas, the newspaper charges that the only thing that the Arab League appears to be doing is "to register these events from the position of an enfeebled onlooker only."

To ask the Arab league to intervene in the two Yemens' conflict cannot be justified because the dispute is too big for the league, not only because it is a tight between brothers for reasons which God only knows, but because it comes within the framework of the play of big powers, the newspaper writes.

It says what is now taking place in many parts of the Arab World may well happen in the remaining parts unless the Arab leaders quickly recover to their own hands the initiative of determining their own future outside the big powers' politics and rivalries over their interests.

AL DUSTOUR says correspondents in Washington believe that President Jimmy Carter has laid a new wager on his political prestige when he called for a meeting with the prime ministers of Egypt and Israel in Camp David for finalising the long-stalled peace treaty between these two countries.

Reviewing the Camp David process "which was met with a unanimous Arab rejection," the new political changes in Iran "which tend to support the Arab cause," the prospective unity between Syria and Iraq and the recent tour of U.S. Secretary of Defence Harold Brown "which dispelled any hopes of any other Arab country joining the Camp David negotiations," the newspaper says President Carter's vacillating popularity is in need of a dramatic event to boost it up. And the American administration thinks that the conclusion of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is the required event, the paper adds.

Jordan Today: The Jordan Times interview

NABIL SAWALHA:

Director of the Haya Centres

Interviewed by Rami G. Khouri

Giving children a sense of their tradition and their environment

moral punishment, however, which takes time for some children to get used to because in many of the schools children are sometimes still being physically hit by their teachers.

JT: What are your plans now for expansion?

NS: Our centre is supported directly by His Majesty the King, who I believe is a great calculating adventurer. In the sense that he also loves a challenge and he likes to build. It's incredible when you think of what Jordan has been able to achieve given our resources. We're only two million, but they sit in America today and say, "Well, if Jordan agrees..." I think that came from his dynamism, from his will, from the feeling of "let's do it, let's start, and we'll manage somehow..." We can do it... coupled, of course, with the dynamism of the people, the mixture of the moralistic principles of the bedouin Jordanian and the commercialism of the sea-servicing Palestinian. That combination balances commercialism with morals, a combination that I think did not have such a balance in Beirut, which burned itself up, because little people were looking only to their own concerns and they forgot about their country.

So I said to His Majesty that this thing at the Haya Centre has got to go forward, it has to expand, we can't just keep sitting on what we have at the centre in Shmeisani. It's no sense to develop some children on one area and leave out the other children in other areas. He said to go ahead, so we've gone ahead. Because we don't have too much money, and I think in this respect poverty is a blessing. I had to find space. You see, you always need space, and there's always space that people are not aware of. We'd go around with the mayor of a municipality and I'd ask for this room, and they'd say, no, we need that room for the old newspapers, but we'd say, no, throw out the old newspapers and we'll make this unused room a children's library. That's what happened in Aqaba, and they've ended up with a centre for children, with two employees working there full time.

Or you go to a charitable organisation in a place like Zarqa, where a building is half finished and you can close up some beams to make rooms, and you've found space for a children's centre. So by doing this sort of thing, we've established seven Haya Centres throughout Jordan, spending no more than a total of five thousand dinars.

JT: Where are the seven centres?

NS: Aqaba, Ruseifa, Zarqa, Prince Hassan Neighbourhood near the (Amman) airport, Nazal neighbourhood (Amman), Salt and Fuheis. Another one should be finished in Kerak soon. These centres have weekly programmes of arts and crafts, games, libraries, etc. with two employees working full time in each centre, and a special department in the headquarters in Shmeisani to look after the other centres, especially to identify local crafts that can be promoted in the different centres, so they retain their individuality and do not all become copies of the main Amman centre.

JT: Besides these centres, you also have places where you only establish a children's library?

NS: Yes, for example in Irbid, the municipality gave us space to set up a library for children, and now the mayor is building a big hall on top of the municipality library especially for children, because there is a big demand. We've given 25 libraries to different societies throughout the country, which they run themselves, but using books and materials we provide for free.

JT: Many people thought the Haya Centre may only turn out to be an exclusive nursery for rich people's children in Shmeisani and Jabal Amman. Do you think that was, or is, a fair suspicion?

NS: That was definitely what many people thought in the beginning, but I believe that perhaps people want to think on the easy side. I think it was not fair, because there is a great awareness in all parents' minds, rich or poor, small employees or big employees, that they want their children to have a better chance in life, and that usually comes through finer culture and a more imaginative brain and being subjected to as many media of learning as possible. I feel there is a certain humility and modesty in all people who bring their children to us, whether rich or not rich, because they want their children to learn.

I think that now we have spread the idea of having children's parks and centres everywhere in the country. This is being helped during the International Year of the Child this year, as all municipalities have been asked to put aside a special park for children.

We then go along to the mayors and tell them that if they also build a little hall in the park, we will equip it with a children's centre and a library, and that's what happened in Kerak, Irbid, Aqaba, and what's slowly happening in all places. We encourage the mayors by telling them that we'll run the centres, but they have first to provide us with the space. They don't know where to buy books and find staff and get the right materials. We do all that for them, but they have to help us with the actual space.

JT: How do you pay for all your activities?

NS: This is where we go back to His Majesty. You see, he said to go ahead, but of course he didn't leave us. He gives us all the budget. Last year we had some extra from a donation from the Saudi Arabian embassy and a lottery we organised, which we spent on buying materials. We gave away 25,000 books last year, and now we will use some of the extra money to expand our main centre in Amman. I want to add to it a traffic school, a gymnasium and a workshop to make children's toys and park games, such as swings and climbing things. It's a JD 100,000 project, and I've asked the prime minister for support, especially after the King asked the prime minister to pay more attention to the athletic and sports side of our people's development, and because two of our expansion projects are geared to sports and physical recreation.

JT: How much of the activities are covered by the annual fees the children themselves pay?

NS: That comes to no more than five per cent of our total expenses every year. I've just presented this year's budget to His Majesty. Our basic running operating expenses, such as salaries and materials for programmes, without the expansion projects, will be about JD 50,000 this year.

After we open the new centres in the bigger cities, such as Irbid and Aqaba, we will turn to the smaller towns and villages, and start opening libraries there.

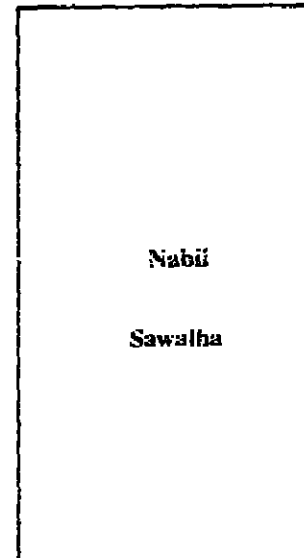
JT: If private individuals or companies or embassies want to help your efforts, how can they best contribute?

NS: We always need materials for the children's programmes, such as pottery or drawing or painting materials, but our pressing need is for cars or buses to use to bring groups of children from different charitable organisations or clubs or orphanages or schools to come to use the centre's facilities.

JT: Do you still have the mobile library?

NS: Yes, every Wednesday the library goes around to schools and charitable centres and community centres to drop off boxes of books which are lent out to the children in areas where no library exists. Every box has 100 books, and the boxes are changed every week.

JT: But aren't you perhaps fighting a losing battle, in that your efforts to stimulate the development of children are swamped by



Nabil
Sawalha



some of the idiotic television programmes that we have every night, or the powerful advertising barrage that children are subjected to? In the larger context of life in Jordan, aren't the children too fragile to be able to benefit from efforts such as the Haya Centre while they are subjected to perhaps more powerful forces of commercialisation and sheer entertainment without a constructive purpose?

NS: I agree that we are fighting a battle, but I wouldn't say it's a losing battle. Everybody's fighting a battle, and we can't go further than the Chinese, who fought their tremendous battle and in the end they're turning back to Coca Cola! Human nature always tends to move towards luxury and comfort, and often exceeds a limit and burns itself up. I've seen two examples of this in my lifetime. In Lebanon and Iran, where people let one side of life dominate the other, and they became nervous and crowded and finally destroyed themselves. They turn to satours, or anything, to get themselves out of the situation. In the Arab World in the fifties and sixties, people turned to political parties. We don't always let logic balance out our emotional side. This is why I do have some fear, but also I'm faced with a dilemma. What do I offer that's better?

We still need many years and much finance before we do our own children's television programmes, and while we may have half an hour of children's programmes on television, we also have six hours of entertainment, and you can't do six hours of good entertainment, so most of it has got to be rubbish.

You can never guarantee a result, but in an open society such as ours, which is open to Western influences, if you try and keep a balanced way of life you can perhaps assure a more lasting process of balanced development that does not lead to any extremes. Can you tell me why, for example, children in Germany who have the best of everything turn into members of the Baader Meinhof group?

I would not go too far in pessimism. The children like the Arabic children's programmes more than the Western ones, for example, because they obviously understand them better, for one thing, and they can identify better with the characters. They are entertained by the speed and the action and the movement of characters of the foreign shows and cartoons, but they're not imbedded in them and they give them up later. The professional quality of the Western television productions is clearly better than what we are now able to produce, yet if there is one Jordanian programme that is good, you find the children are all talking about it.

Of course they're always fascinated by the "super", whether it's Superman or Tarzan or whatever, and even the grown-ups are too. It's always the dream of a person to be stronger than his environment, and the child is going to have it. I believe if he has it as a child, then I have no fear of him later on realising it was a nice dream. The Haya Centre concept also comes into this. If the child does pottery when he's a child and he likes it he'll go on, but if he doesn't like the clay environment he'll stop it and he won't have to bother with it when he grows up. I personally grew up wanting to paint, to play with clay, to go to artistic things, and it took quite a chunk of my adult life to get rid of all these desires. But now, my son at the age of eight and a half has had them all.

So I'm not afraid. There is to me, however, always the fear of losing your identity, which is what I think happened in Lebanon, where you'd find a big poster written in English or French, with some Arabic writing in small letters down in the corner. This is not being bigoted or blowing up a small issue; this is an indication of a very big issue and an important issue. I've got to have pride in myself, if I'm proud and I'm confident, then I can love the West and the Western side of life. But if I have no base of my own, then I'm an imitator, and I'm light and easy to destroy.

At the Haya Centre, the children feel they come to a place where they can belong. They feel that someone did something for them. So then they go home and watch television, but I have no real fear they'll be spoiled or damaged, as long as I maintain the balance of giving them something on the other side, a pride in their history, a pride in their culture, in their colour, in the people they work with, in their parents, in their rulers. What they see on television will rub away, because it's only light pictures that just pass through. If I don't give the child the tradition of the country and the strength of his local environment, then I have something to fear.

The local aspect of life is always the stronger. For example, five years ago we did a television series in which I played a small role as a government employee who was crafty and very Jordanian

and liked to eat a lot and all that, and people today still call me by the name of the character I played. But you ask them the name of a character of a foreign show, and they don't remember. What does bother me, though, is when you find a poster in Jordan with big English letters and nothing in Arabic, or the name of a shop that's English or French and that means nothing to an Arabic speaker. That's very unhealthy.

I'm probably typical of many Jordanians who've had the best of both worlds. I've lived and studied and worked in the West, and I once married a foreigner. I like the West and I enjoy it, but I believe very strongly in my own country and my own tradition.

JT: Are the large, powerful institutions of this country, such as television and radio and the press and educational institutions working in a manner that promotes the development and national interests of Jordan, or are large sectors of this society simply getting trapped into the monster of pure commercial growth which perhaps neglects whether they're contributing to the balanced and healthy evolution of this country and only worry about whether or not they make a profit at the end of the budget year?

NS: Perhaps, perhaps. But you must remember this is an open market, though I don't believe in this without some constraints. We don't need 200 kinds of lipsticks or 200 kinds of armchairs in Jordan, definitely, but what do you do if you don't have enough carpenters or plumbers to produce the goods required by the population that has in many cases earned much money working in the oil-producing states? We are short of people now, so I want an armchair, am I going to wait three months? No I go and buy one that's imported, and this is good as long as it's balanced. Of course, I was talking about balance in the children's world. In the grown-up world, there is no balance in the Arab states.

I agree, however, that our institutions, such as television, can do much more for the children and the local social market. We are discussing with the television producing shows for children that will be filmed at our theatre. We're moving towards that slowly, but I have more basic things to do first. I've got to get a book to every Jordanian child to read. Once we have more centres established, then we can direct more of our own energies and time towards television and radio, say, to reach more children throughout the country. But we have already done some scripts for radio and television.

One thing we're particularly interested in is promoting more coordination between the family and the Haya Centre. One of our greatest weaknesses in the Arab World is lack of commitment. You find that a Westerner will normally do the job required of him no matter what are his own feelings, but an Arab may be unhappy with his mother or will have had a bad lunch, and then he may leave me and 30 or 40 kids waiting because he's unhappy. The commitment has been dropped because of some emotional impulse. This is on a small scale, so you can imagine how much damage can be done on a large scale, on the national scale. This comes in large part from a lack of committed discipline at home. If a child kisses his mother, then today he doesn't have to go to bed at seven, he can go to bed at ten. If the father is angry, he sends his kids to bed at five, but another day he's happy and the kids stay with him until eleven. If today a man shouldn't pee in the street because it's wrong, then tomorrow perhaps it's OK to pee in the street because we can have a laugh at it. So, it's often all depending on a momentary, temporary, emotional decision, not based on a continuous commitment to what we're doing. I think this is a great failure, a very serious failure that leaves any plan haphazard.

You find individuals exhibit these weaknesses whenever they try to coordinate the work of their own institution with others in the country, instead of the individuals growing above their own personal, emotional feelings into a committed field which is a far-off aim that has to be reached regardless of all the nonsenses and nuisances that every human meets in doing a job. Cooperation then tends to be poor because everyone is flying their own flag.

If a cameraman is not happy with the driver, he'll drop 300 people and leave. He has not been trained, either at home or in the social institutions of the country, and the person running the establishment has not laid down sets of rules which say that regardless of your personal feelings or grievances you must go out and complete the job, and then we'll solve whatever complaints you have. We have to develop an establishment that values reaching its aims. This is the lesson that I hope we can get into the home. If you train your children in a certain discipline, give them as much love as you want, give them as much emotion as you want, give them as much fun as you want, but they must learn set standards of discipline. The child is also happy, because no child likes being mucked around with or given too much freedom or too little freedom. If he knows 7:30 is bedtime, he'll bargain for five minutes, but he knows that 7:30 is bedtime. People often play with children like little toys. They love them when they want, they hate them when they want, and the children grow up emotionally very mixed. This is why people never know what's coming next in the Middle East. We grown-ups usually mix up logic with emotion, and therefore it's not surprising when foreigners say they never know what will happen in the Middle East. As an artist, I should like this non-predictable aspect of our character, but an artist is only good and creative if he has a certain set of standards, and a framework within which he can break these standards. If I don't want to live with people, I can go live in the desert and walk naked, and nobody will bother me. But if I live in a society with other people, I've got to have a code of conduct, yet one within which I can still live creatively.

But we are also impatient, and we want to catch with the West in areas in which the West is far ahead. We have to teach the children that it takes a lot of hard work to become a potter or a painter or a mathematician. Thirty or forty years of your time is spent building a tree, and you cut the fruit after that.

LOCAL

EXCHANGE

RATES

U.S. dollar	297.00/299.00
U.K. sterling	601.00/605.00
West German mark	160.70/161.70
Swiss franc	178.30/179.40
French franc	69.60/70.00
Italian lire	(for every 100)
Japanese yen	(for every 100)
Dutch guilder	146.90/149.50
Belgian franc	(for every ten)
Swedish crown	101.60/102.20
	68.10/68.50

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	4,365	6,580	6,570	6,570
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	2,392	—	14,400	14,400
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	494	1,010	1,020	1,020
Dar Aldawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	130	1,970	2,010	2,060
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	641	950	950	960
Arab Aluminium Co.	JD 1,000	4,750	—	950	950
Jordan Lime and Silicate Bricks Industries Co.	JD 5,000	1,828	—	—	4,570
The Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	306	720	710	720

Total volume traded, Tuesday, Feb. 27: JD 15,106

Total number of shares traded: 7887

NAME OF COMPANY	Par Value	Numbers Traded	Selling Price	Year of Maturity
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	160	5,200	1982
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 5,000	1,140	5,005	1983
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 10,000	100	5,070	1986
Jordan Lime and Silicate Bricks Industries Co.	JD 10,000	12	10,80	1987
The Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 10,000	350	10,340	1988
	JD 10,000	20	10,20	1988

Total volume traded: JD 10,981



Mount Kassioun Master Plan

الاسطوانات

1	مركز المدينة
2	مركز المدينة
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New city to overlook ancient Damascus

By Pat McDonnell
Special to the Jordan Times

DAMASCUS--As in all Arab capitals, the population of Damascus is growing at a rapid pace and city planners are frantically engineering schemes to meet housing demand.

This is not to say that Damascus is in a critical stage--in terms of growth rate, it figures in the median range, in that it is lower than Cairo, but higher than Tunis.

In 1975, the population of Damascus was estimated to be around one million with an annual growth rate of 4.6 per cent. Thanks to government plans to establish factories and commercial centres in other areas of the country, this increase is anticipated to drop slightly to 4.45 per cent by 1980.

During the mid 1960s, housing developments were planned and constructed to the southwest in Mezze and northeast at Barze. Mindful that these projects were cutting into the valuable "green belt" farmlands surrounding Damascus, the city fathers looked for new alternatives in housing developments.

The best alternative clearly was the yellow limestone Kassioun mountain range that has been the

dramatic backdrop--and signature--of Damascus from prehistory. Although the steep, rugged terrain of the mountain northwest of Damascus is not ideal for urban development, the advantage of its proximity to central Damascus and the opportunities for exploiting the mountain for recreation and tourism weighed heavily in favour of further encroachment upon the oasis gardens surrounding the city.

In 1972, modest plans for a small town on the northern face of Mount Kassioun were initiated. Conservationists need not be alarmed. The steep rocky slopes and bald limestone cliffs of Mount Kassioun will not be defaced. All development will take place on the northern ridge of the mountain, out of sight of central Damascus.

An afforestation project has been launched. The Mount Kassioun project even has its own nursery. To date, one million pine, juniper and oak trees have been planted in suitable pockets of the mountain so as to make an attractive play between rocks and trees. It is hoped the increased vegetation will diminish landslides and dust upon the slopes and city.

It is only in the inhabited area that terraces are being constructed

along with footpaths to provide pedestrians with attractive access to recreation areas above.

The project has snowballed in the years since its inception. Excavation is now going on for four highways, a community that will house 111,000 people, a tourist village, a zoo, a golf course and countless parks and footpaths.

Actual construction of the Mount Kassioun housing development will not begin until 1981. The total number of houses will be 19,500, whereas 200,000 dwellings must be built by 1985 to overcome the existing shortage. That is to say, the 111,000 people housed in Mount Kassioun will be equal to about two and a half years' growth in the population of Damascus.

This particular effort to meet the housing shortage has indeed been well planned. Initially, three choices of development were studied: a self-contained town; a dormitory suburb; or a satellite community which offered employment and social/public facilities, yet remained dependent on central Damascus.

The first option was ruled out because the metropolis of Damascus offers too many occupational and recreational attractions. Traffic congestion and limited

access cancelled the prospect of a "bedroom" city.

A feasibility report prepared in 1975 by the Shankland Cox team proposed that as a satellite community, Mount Kassioun would provide a wide range of shops, services and public facilities to a population living within 10 to 12 kilometres of central Damascus.

Up to the mid 1970s, housing in Damascus has traditionally been low-rise, high density, largely built by owner occupiers. Most dwellings now being built are flats in either low-rise structures of four-to-five storeys financed by private investors and cooperative groups, or high-rise buildings of 12 storeys chiefly built for sale by the municipality.

There has been virtually no construction of villas (individual houses for the upper income group). Few areas in Damascus are suitable for meeting the demand for private villas desired by wealthy Damascenes and citizens of other Arab countries. The superb views of the Anti-Lebanon mountain range and city of Damascus afforded from Mount Kassioun as well as the extensive acreage of undeveloped land answer this need.

Plans now being implemented call for a community that will be

balanced: 14 per cent of the dwellings will be villas for the high income group; 38 per cent will be in the middle income structure; and 48 per cent in the lower income stratum.

Upon completion, the community should have a labour force comprising 25 per cent of the population. In addition to shopping centres, the development will contain nursery, primary, intermediate and secondary schools, polyclinics, health centres, two specialist hospitals, mosques, churches, security and administrative centres. Plans also have been proposed for homes for the mentally handicapped and the elderly and for a technical education college.

A stipulation in the feasibility report is that small parks should be close to dwellings so that each resident of all income groups lives within 250 metres of some open space however modest in size and that all live within 500 metres of special parks with sports facilities. A second objective is to design open spaces as a system of linked parks so that the very young and very old can move on foot safely from road traffic.

In terms of recreation, the Barada Valley will receive special treatment in the construction of

botanical gardens. Facilities also will be opened on the summit of Mount Kassioun for residents of central Damascus.

Large quarries for cement and phosphate works are scheduled to soon cease operation in the Mount Kassioun region. Once mechanical equipment and waste products are removed, these caverns will provide a dramatic park bounded by limestone cliffs. It is here that a zoo will be designed where numerous bays within the former quarry walls will be employed as enclosures for animals. Floodlit by night, the limestone cliffs should be spectacular.

A tourist village is planned for the western ridge of the development where an incomparable panoramic view of the Anti-Lebanon range and Damascus is offered. The village will contain a 200-room first class hotel, another 200-room hotel of lower tariff in addition to 50 villas.

Architects have designed this complex in the manner of a village--low buildings closely integrated with the terrain to fit the traditional character of Syrian hill villages which have a particular attraction for tourists.

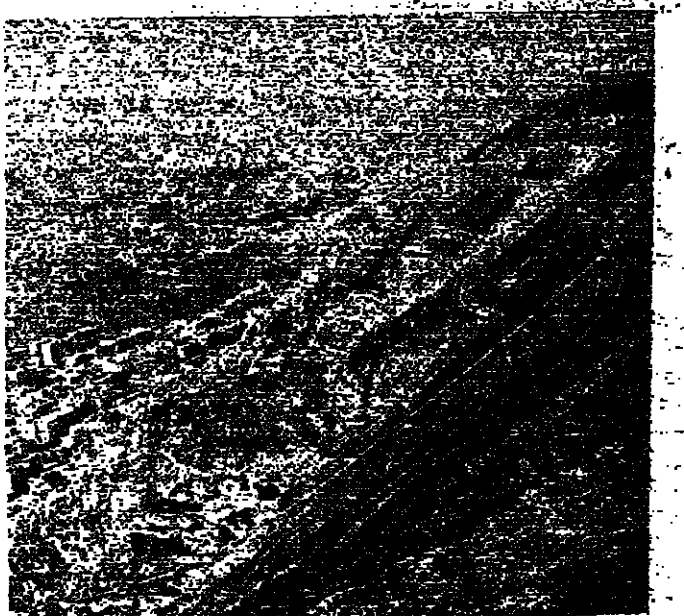
In addition to a casino, pool, nightclub and commercial facilities of the hotels, a riding

school, stables, horse trails are proposed in addition to a nine-hole golf course, a sporting club and a small camping site.

A cable car will link Mount Kassioun with central Damascus. It is routed from the city to the tourist village and across the development centre to the residential area.

Current work is limited to lay-

ing utility lines and roads. The efficiency of the Kassioun engineers has been the trouble-shooter. Municipality of Damascus clean-up crews or highway construction work. The latest taken on by the team was Beirut-Damascus highway, eliminating traffic city of Damascus.



Slope of Mount Kassioun after recent afforestation

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مركز المدينة

15 reported killed Iraqi planes 'hit' Kurdish town in Iran'

TEHRAN, Feb. 27 (R)—Iran today denied reports that separatists were causing unrest in the country's Kurdish province. At the same time, Tehran newspapers said Iraqi aircraft had launched attacks in the border area, killing 15 people in one raid on a Kurdistan market town.

The denial came from assistant Iranian Prime Minister Amir Entezam, who told a press conference: "the rumours are totally baseless."

Mr. Entezam declared, "The Kurdish people have the right to send in their demands and these will be studied and investigated by the government. There is no question of separation."

The English-language Kayhan International daily reported that Iraqi helicopters and fighters had strafed and bombed the market

town of Sirin, on the Iranian side of the frontier with Iraq.

The report, which government officials and Iraqi diplomats said they could not confirm, said 15 people were killed.

In London, a spokesman for the Kurdish democratic Party (KDP) said seven aircraft bombed and strafed the village of Sirin, 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the town of Khaneh, and some five to 10 kilometres (three to six miles) from the border.

He said the attack took place during the past few days and caused some injuries apart from the deaths, but could not say how many or give the exact date. The Iraqis might have been attacking Kurdish guerrillas, who fled over the border from Iraq, he said.

Two afternoon papers in Tehran carried similar reports to that in the Kayhan International, but the Etef'at newspaper said the village of Shorteh and a gendarmerie post in Abkineh had also been attacked by Iraqi aircraft.

Etef'at said yesterday that a government mission sent to study problems in Kurdistan had drawn up an agreement to give the area autonomy.

The Kurdish language would be taught in schools and all military and civilian officials in the western province would be Kurds in future, it said.

The deposed Shah of Iran backed an uprising in Iraq's Kurdish area until March, 1975, when Iran and Iraq signed an agreement in Algiers cutting off the guerrillas' supply lines.

Mr. Entezam told reporters last week that troops had fled their barracks in the Kurdish city of Mahabad and that local people had occupied the building. The government was negotiating with them to leave peacefully.

This was one of the few recent reports of trouble in the area to be confirmed officially.

Separatist guerrillas were also blamed for attacks on border posts in the area earlier this year, before the Shah was toppled.

The armed forces last week urged Kurds not to approach border posts and said troops had orders to shoot those who disobeyed.

Ugandan troops recapture Masaka

NAIROBI, Feb. 27 (R)—Ugandan troops have recaptured the southern regional centre of Masaka from an invasion force from Tanzania, Uganda radio said today.

The broadcast said President Idi Amin had been informed by the commander of the crack suicide battalion that the town, reported captured two days ago, had been won back after heavy fighting.

President Amin was quoted as informing the commanding officer of the unit that reinforcements were already on the way.

The president advised Ugandans not to panic and assured them everything possible was being done to defend them against aggression.

Ugandan exile sources told Reuters earlier today the heavily armed Tanzanian invasion force had occupied large areas of southwest Uganda and was half-way up the main road through Masaka from the border to Kampala.

They said they expected President Amin to make a stand against the invasion force between Masaka and Kampala, where the road runs through swampy land.

South Africa cuts rand from dollar

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 27 (R)—South Africa is about to take its final step in cutting the rand adrift from the U.S. dollar, Finance Minister Owen Horwood said yesterday.

Senator Horwood told Parliament that from today the value of the rand would be determined by supply and demand, with South Africa's Reserve Bank stepping in to buy and sell dollars to control the exchange rate.

South Africa announced its plans to end the rand-dollar link last month, as part of a package of measures to stimulate foreign investment in this country and

promote economic growth. Since then, the Reserve Bank has announced a two-stage change in the exchange rate moving the rand from \$1.15 to \$1.18.

But Senator Horwood said that these had been transitional arrangements.

"The Reserve Bank will still be acting in the market, on a continual basis, as a buyer and seller of dollars, and will thereby not only eliminate unnecessary exchange rate fluctuations but in reality also exercise control over the movements of the rand-dollar rate," he said.



Sign of the times

PEKING — A poster advertising the Charlie Chaplin classic film "Modern Times" attracts the attention of passersby in a Peking street. This is one of the new faces of a China which is increasingly looking outwards and opening itself to Western influences. (Gamma photo)

Book thrown at judge in sentencing of Sanjay Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Feb. 27 (R)—Pandemonium broke out in a Delhi courtroom today when Sanjay Gandhi, son of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, was sentenced to two years' hard labour for criminal conspiracy and four other offences.

One of his supporters threw a book at judge O.N. Vohra, fighting broke out between spectators

and detectives, and a table crashed under the combined weight of Sanjay men shouting abuse at the police.

Former information and broadcasting minister Vidya Charan Shukla was also jailed for two years on the same charges connected with the destruction of a film made during Mrs. Gandhi's 1975 emergency rule. It satirised

her and other politicians. Both men were allowed bail of 5,000 rupees (\$825) pending appeal to the high court.

While a minor riot took place inside the courtroom, Sanjay supporters battled with police outside the building and broke the windows of passing buses.

Judge Vohra had hardly finished sentencing the 32-

year-old Sanjay when his supporters in the packed courtroom began shouting and hurling abuse at the judge.

After ducking to avoid files and a book thrown at the bench, the judge shouted back at the crowd. "This is not the place. You should treat this place with respect. I've enough of these people."

"I may love someone as a son or a brother, but I am a judge and must do my job. If you were in my position you would do the same. One should not be sentimental. One should believe in reality."

When the supporters kept up their abuse the judge left the court and fighting broke out between a burly Sanjay supporter and a detective.

It was the first conviction against Sanjay out of about 20 cases pending against him for alleged illegal activities during his mother's last two years as premier. He was then one of the most powerful figures in India.

As well as the criminal conspiracy charge, the two were convicted of breach of trust, mischief by fire, retaining stolen property and destroying evidence.

In addition to the jail sentences, Sanjay was fined a total of 10,000 rupees (\$1,250) and Shukla 25,000 rupees (\$3,120).

The judge suspended the sentences until March 25 to allow for an appeal.

Pope calls for Christian unity

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 27 (R)—Pope John Paul called in a letter published today for closer cooperation between Catholics and other Christians while efforts were made to achieve full unity.

The Pope told Monsignor Ramon Torrella Casante of the Vatican's Secretariat for the Union of Christians, that he should adopt this line at his current meeting with the World Council of Churches in Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

"I hope ways may be found in this meeting for growing collaboration in all fields which are possible with the World Council of Churches," the Pope wrote.

Spanish polls tomorrow may lead to Centrist, Socialist coalition

MADRID, Feb. 27 (R)—Spain's general election campaign drew to a close today and opinion polls predicted a narrow victory for the ruling Democratic Centre Union (UCD) over its main opponents, the Socialists, in Thursday's ballot.

Polls published in Madrid newspapers also forecast that the Communist Party would gain more seats in parliament, while the Conservative Democratic coalition (CD) was expected to lose ground.

The three-week election campaign was ending tonight to give the 26.8 million voters a day for undisturbed political reflection.

The final electioneering was marked by fierce Communist attacks on both Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and the Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) of Felipe Gonzalez.

The election will be the second Spain has had since the dismantling of the authoritarian regime of Gen. Francisco Franco, who died in 1975.

"No worker should vote for the UCD because it is the party of the dominant classes," Communist leader Santiago Carrillo told supporters in an industrial Madrid suburb last night.

Mr. Carrillo later predicted on television that the UCD would form a coalition with the Socialists after the election.

The opinion poll published today by the liberal Madrid daily El Pais tended to support this view. According to political

experts it gave the UCD 153 seats in the lower house to the PSOE's 140, while 176 seats are needed for an absolute majority.

But the El Pais poll suggested that the Socialists would win a 29.5 per cent share of the popular vote against 27.7 per cent for the UCD. The UCD would keep

ahead in seats only because of its strength in the sparsely populated provinces, where it takes less votes to elect a deputy.

However, in his campaign swings around the country Mr.

Suarez has emphasised he believes the UCD will win enough votes to govern alone for the next four years. The UCD had 155 seats in the last parliament but was able to govern mainly through the cooperation of the Socialists and Communists.

If the UCD fails to win an outright majority it will be forced into a coalition — if not with the Socialists on the left then with the rightist Democratic Coalition Party led by former Franco-era minister Manuel Fraga Iribarne.

Old Bailey to have tight security

LONDON, Feb. 27 (R)—The tightest security screen ever thrown around London's Old Bailey courthouse went into operation today for a series of trials involving allegations of Middle East-connected crimes including assassinations, bombings and shootings.

The tough security measures are expected to be in force for the next five weeks when four trials are scheduled.

The first, due to start today, concerns the murder of a former Iraqi prime minister, Amadi Abdul Rahman Al-Shukri and Salem Ahmad Hassan were committed for trial last July, charged with the murder of Gen. Abdul Razzak Al Naif outside the Intercontinental Hotel in London.

The trial of William Bryce and his son, Trevor will follow. They were committed on charges relating to the attempted kidnap of Matmoud Maghribi, the former ambassador of the Libyan Jamahiriyah in London and formerly Libyan prime minister.

In the third case, Jerusalem-born Arab Fahad Mihvi, was accused of murdering an air hostess in the attack on an El Al airline bus in the Mayfair district on August 20.

The fourth trial concerns an 18-year-old girl student from Lebanon and 29-year-old Algerian-born mechanic, Mahmoud Abu Naami committed on charges of conspiring to murder the former Iraqi ambassador in London, Ahmed Al Dawood.

The girl, Khoulood Moghrabi, was also committed on a charge of causing an explosion outside the Iraqi embassy here last July.

World News Briefs

West 'insincere against SA apartheid'

GENEVA, Feb. 27 (R)—Western countries which condemn apartheid but trade with South Africa were accused yesterday of insincerity in a United Nations human rights forum. Syria and others gave reason to doubt the sincerity of the Western powers because they were still room for higher profits in southern Africa than anywhere else. Dia Allah Al Fattal, Syrian delegate to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, said racial war in South Africa could only be ended with the cooperation of those who gave assistance to the minority regimes. He said the new South African government had real political will by cutting off all exports to South Africa and

Ageing world labour will burden societies

GENEVA, Feb. 27 (R)—The world's labour force is ageing and by the turn of the century will impose a heavy burden on societies in terms of social security and pensions, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said yesterday. The total number of people aged 45 and over was expected to grow to 700 million from present 475 million by the year 2000, the ILO said. A report presented to the 158-member organisation's annual assembly in June said the ranks of older workers was as present increased about eight million a year. (The U.S. Census Bureau said the world's population could exceed six billion by the year 2000, the 1975 figure was 4.1 billion)

Locusts may threaten African, Asian crops

ROME, Feb. 27 (R)—Desert locusts could cause serious damage to foodcrops in Africa, the Near East, Pakistan and India unless contained, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said yesterday. It said the prospect of locust invasion was at present limited to coastal areas around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, where some winter millet and sorghum were grown. But the danger could spread unless controls were maintained. The FAO organisation said in a report on world food outlook. The FAO is seeking \$6 million in additional aid from international aid donors to finance control work. It has so far spent \$2 million fighting the

Nyerere supports Polisario guerrillas

DARESSALAAM, Feb. 27 (R)—Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere yesterday pledged support for Polisario guerrillas in Morocco and Mauritania for the independence of the Western Sahara. In a message to the Polisario Front on the third anniversary of the proclamation of the Arab Democratic Republic of Western Sahara, Nyerere said: "The people of Tanzania have long had sympathy and admiration for the efforts of the people of the Sahara to liberate their land which has been occupied and divided by Zionist aggressors. We affirm that the struggle of your people for the Polisario Front is an integral part of the struggle for the liberation of the African continent." Tanzania recognised the proclaimed republic last year.

Khomeini receives Polisario delegation

ALGIERS, Feb. 27 (R)—A delegation of the self-proclaimed Saharawi Democratic Republic (RASD), which received Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini, the Algerian news agency reported from Tehran. The report quoted Ayatollah Khomeini as telling the visitors: "The king (of Morocco) and you chose the Iranian people, have its friendship." The Algerian-backed Polisario Front claimed the RASD as its name for Western Sahara in 1975 in the Madrid agreement which divided the former Spanish Sahara between Morocco and Mauritania.

Two cosmonauts link orbiting spacecraft

MOSCOW, Feb. 27 (R)—Two Soviet cosmonauts left Soyuz-32 space craft to an orbiting research station and walked on board, the official Tass news agency reported. The Soyuz-32 station took place at 13:30 GMT. Lyakhov and Valery Rymyn opened the hatch and passed station. Tass said. It was not known how long the cosmonauts would remain in the orbiting laboratory. But Western analysts believe they are aiming for a marathon stay in space. The main tasks will be to check the equipment on the station.

Hairy-chested men hold liquor better

VIENNA, Feb. 27 (R)—A hairy chest is the sign of a man who can hold his liquor, a Vienna doctor told a conference on health here yesterday. Men with hairy chests get drunk faster than their smooth-skinned brothers, Dr. Herbert Thaler, in internal medicine, said. Women, for some medical reason, can drink only one-third of a man's daily limit, he said. Thaler said that men can safely drink one bottle (0.7 litres) of wine while women should stop at 1/3 litre if they want to avoid damage.

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Philippines starts pumping own oil

By Honor Blanco Cable Reuters

MANILA—The Philippines, after a long search for oil, has now joined the oil-producing nations and forecasts huge savings in its fuel expenses.

While the start of production from the South Nido One well in the south China Sea is considered a breakthrough for this Southeast Asian archipelago, it is also tapping local non-oil energy sources to reduce its dependence on imported fuel.

The initial production rate from Nido, off Palawan Island, is only 4,000 barrels a day. But, together with other sources in the area it should increase to 40,000 barrels a day before the end of 1979, according to Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco.

Small compared to the Middle East's resources, or even those of its Asian neighbours, the Philippines find is significant for their economy, because the recent increase in oil prices will put up the price of a barrel of oil an aver-

age ten per cent this year. Until this year, about 95 per cent of the country's fuel needs were imported, so the start of production on Jan. 27 was a welcome development in a country that uses 210,000 barrels of oil a day.

Mr. Velasco is hopeful that with actual production in the Nido complex—which covers four blocks totalling 517,480 hectares—and the operation of new energy sources, the Philippines will save about \$250 million a year.

This should improve the country's adverse balance of trade picture, with about half the foreign exchange savings coming from oil produced in the Nido complex.

The immediate forecast is that in 1979 alone, Nido would generate \$127 million in foreign exchange savings.

This development has spurred the government to further encourage oil exploration activities, with President Ferdinand Marcos saying that there would be 30 more drilling operations this year. 19 of them off-

shore. For the next seven years, the government has approved at least 17 exploration service contracts worth \$180 million. 13 of them with foreign operators.

Informed sources say the South Nido One well and the nearby West Nido One have a crude oil deposit estimated at 128 million barrels worth about \$231.2 million.

The oil find and production was made possible by a consortium of Philippine and American firms led by Philippine Cities Service Incorporated, the operator under a service contract granted by the government's Petroleum Board in 1973.

But President Marcos, in a recent speech, said the oil reserves of these wells "will not of course abruptly end all our dependence on imported oil."

He said that at most the Nido complex would probably supply only 20 per cent of the country's requirements.

"But we know there is oil in the country and there is more to be

explored and tapped...there are new encouraging indications that there are oil reserves not only in the Palawan area (near the Nido complex) but all over the country," President Marcos said.

But the president has stressed the need for continuing exploration for alternative sources of energy.

He has ordered a review of the country's development priorities, with geothermal energy raising possibilities.

A geothermal plant started operations early this year and at least three others are expected to be completed by 1980.

A \$1 billion nuclear power plant is being built and investigations are continuing on solar power and the exploitation of coal resources.

Oil exploration in the Philippines started before the turn of the century when the first local exploratory well was drilled in the central island province of Cebu.

Exploration, however, was formally ushered in by the Petroleum Act of 1949 which intro-

duced the concession system.

From that year to the early 1970s, the search for oil was in the hands of private Filipino companies and a number of foreign firms. All attempts were unsuccessful until two years ago.

In 1969 came a renewed interest in oil exploration as international prices soared with the closure of the Suez Canal to sea traffic. But lack of high-risk capital and expertise, compounded by lack of government incentives saddled exploration efforts.

In 1972, after President Marcos declared martial law throughout this sprawling archipelago, he decreed the shift from the concession system to production sharing, also known as the service contract system introduced in the 1960s by Indonesia.

Much needed "risk capital" and advanced technology started to come in.

The government believes the new system provides maximum benefit to the country while assuring reasonable returns to private firms that provide the necessary

services and assume

ration risks. The production-sharing upholds the sovereign producer-country resources. At the same time, it assures the producer the produce without exacting by the time.

The incentives in the Petroleum Law exemptions from tax compensating, deduction of machinery and materials and repatriation of capital actually brought in and retention of abroad foreign earnings in excess of requirements.

The discovery of oil in the Philippines and the production has also been a boon to the country's edge of the South China Sea. It has a 230,000 square kilometres of sedimentary basins.